

WHAT IS A VETERAN?

By DAN VALENTINE



HE'S A MAN who looks the world in the eye . . . He's a man who feels an extra heart-tug when the flag goes by . . . He's a man who steps a little faster when he hears the beat of a military band . . .

He's a Veteran.

He comes in all assorted sizes and shapes . . . He's a big man, he's a small man, he's a short man . . . He's a tall man . . .

He is the "Doughboy" of World War I . . . the "G.I." of World War II . . . He's a man who's seen Korea's skies . . . and fought the cold and silent battle of uneasy Berlin . . .

He's a Veteran.

He is Sailor . . . Soldier . . . Marine . . .

He is Flyer . . . Seabee . . . Coast Guard . . .

He is Artillery . . . Infantry . . . Medic . . . Chemical Corps . . . Armored and Ordnance . . .

He's a Veteran!

He has the quiet dignity of a man who knows the price of freedom . . . He has the clear eyes of a man who respects himself.

He is courage living on Main Street . . . He is patriotism mowing the lawn on Saturday afternoon . . . He is good citizenship with a smile on his face . . .

He's a Veteran.

He is Republican, Democrat, Independent

. . . He is father, grandfather, husband and bachelor uncle . . .

He is plumber, doctor, salesman . . . He is mechanic, farmer, banker . . . He is Catholic, Protestant, Jew . . . He is rich and poor and in-between . . .

He's a Veteran.

He's a man who loves peace because he knows the price tag of war . . .

He's a member of history's most exclusive fraternity . . .

He's been there . . .

He's a Veteran.

He likes the majesty of American mountains . . . the tranquility of America's valleys . . . He likes the bustle of America's cities and the friendliness of America's Main Streets . . .

He likes the sound of America's children playing on American playgrounds . . . He likes to see the Flag go by . . . and hear the sound of an American bugle playing "Taps" . . .

He is citizen soldier . . . Peacetime leader . . . He's the first to volunteer in time of trouble . . . and the last to come home . . .

He's a Veteran.

He is proud of his American past . . . alert to his American present . . . confident of his American future . . .

He likes the legends of America's great . . . the Washingtons . . . the Jeffersons . . . the Abraham Lincolns . . . The Roosevelts . . . the Robert E. Lees . . . the Stonewall Jacksons . . . the Pattons, the Eisenhowers, the MacArthurs . . . and all the proud patriots who have marched through America's history books . . .

He has bivouaced at Valley Forge . . . charged the hills at Gettysburg . . . faced the fire at San Juan Hill . . . stormed the sands at Guadalcanal . . . sloughed through the Marne . . . and swarmed ashore at Omaha Beach . . .

He's a Veteran.

In the very rear of his secret heart there is always a tinge of sorrow, a souvenir of sadness for lost and departed comrades.

No matter how gray his temples grow or how many inches he adds to his middle-aged waist, he always walks with a distinctive pride that isn't given to lesser men . . .

He is America with an honorable discharge . . . He is Democracy with a good conduct medal lost in the darkness of his keepsake box . . . He is freedom with a Purple Heart . . .

He's a first class fighting man with a quiet walk and a sentimental grin . . .

He's America's most honored citizen . . .

He's a Veteran.